

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05408 062116Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022614 062117Z /41

O R 062105Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4881
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05408

EXDIS - CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK US, MZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REPLIES TO QUERIES FROM VIEIRA

REF: (A) STATE 088255; (B) STATE 086916

1. WE PRESENTED REFTEL (A) TO FCO AT OPENING OF BUSINESS ON APRIL 5. AFTER CHEWING ON PROBLEM THROUGHOUT DAY, FCO REFERRED FINAL DECISION TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN. OWEN DECIDED THAT NO DIRECT RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE TO VIEIRA, AND FCO HAS CABLED INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT TO BRITISH EMBASSIES MAPUTO AND WASHINGTON. OWEN'S ARGUMENT IS THAT VIEIRA HIMSELF IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO MERIT A TAILORED RESPONSE, WE ARE NOT NEGOTIATING WITH THE MOZAMBICANS, AND ANY COMMITMENT MADE TO VIEIRA COULD TIE OUR HANDS AT THE ARUSHA AND/OR ALL-PARTIES MEETINGS. ACCORDINGLY, OWEN'S RECOMMENDATIO
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IS THAT US AND UK AMBASSADORS IN MAPUTO NOT VOLUNTEER ANY RESPONSE TO VIEIRA.

2. ON DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE WENT BACK TO FCO TO ARGUE THAT SHOULD VIEIRA PRESS FOR A RESPONSE, AD-LIBBING COULD BE MOST DANGEROUS. WE FURTHER NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO SEEK VIEIRA OUT TO DELIVER A

CATEGORIC LIST OF ANSWERS TO HIS QUERIES, BUT TO ENSURE THAT OUR AMBASSADORS SPOKE FROM A COMMONLY ACCEPTED POINT OF REFERENCE SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY. AFTER AGAIN CONSULTING WITH OWEN, FCO REPEATED THAT OWEN STILL FELT THAT OUR AMBASSADORS IN MAPUTO SHOULD AD-LIB."DRAWING, IF NECESSARY, ON PREVIOUS GENERAL GUIDANCE" IF PURSUED BY VIEIRA. IN NO CASE, HOWEVER, DID OWEN FEEL THAT OUR AMBASSADORS SHOULD GIVE VIEIRA THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO HIS QUESTIONS.

3. WE POINTED OUT TO OUR FCO INTERLOCUTOR (SPENCER) THAT REFTELS WERE PHYSICALLY AVAILABLE IN MAPUTO AND HENCE COULD BE CONSIDERED TO FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF "PREVIOUS GENERAL GUIDANCE." IN PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGING THIS POINT SPENCER NOTED THAT THE ONE PART OF REFTEL (A) WHICH GAVE THE FCO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY WAS THE SECOND SENTENCE OF REFTEL (A) PARA 3 ("WE WILL, . . . AGREEMENT FOR THEM.")

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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